

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Processes for producing  $\beta$ -hydroxy-ketones and  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones are disclosed which comprise the crossed condensation of an aldehyde with a ketone in the presence of a hydroxide or alkoxide of alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal as catalyst. The products of the process,  $\beta$ -hydroxy-ketones and  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones, are useful for the preparation of many commercially important products in the chemical process industries including solvents, drug intermediates, flavors and fragrances, other specialty chemical intermediates.